

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**KATHLEEN A. MARCHIONE**  
SENATOR, 43RD DISTRICT

April 15, 2016

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Senate Task Force on  
Lyme & Tick-Borne Diseases

*Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590*

*Dear Secretary Foxx:*

*Please let this letter serve as my support of the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Rd. (Copake Falls); and three pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Rd. in Copake. These three components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail from Wassaic (Dutchess County) to Hillsdale (Columbia County), linking to New York City via Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the trail will be 46 miles long.*

*This project will join two counties, NY State Parks, and a not for profit in a project which will become a destination for thousands of people near and far. Since the mid-1980's, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association has worked tirelessly to develop this 46-mile rail trail, opening their first segment in 1996. Since then, the trail has grown in 1997, 2000, and 2005 and this latest connection will attract even more visitors to enjoy the beauty and history of this natural habitat. The trail is revitalizing the communities it passes through and giving people for miles around a secure, beautiful place to enjoy biking, hiking and other outdoor activities.*

*I hope that you will give strong consideration to the HVRTA's application. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to speak with me in regard to this.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathleen A. Marchione'.

*Kathleen A. Marchione  
NYS Senator, 43<sup>rd</sup> District*

*KAM/ec*

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